

WYCOMBE WANDERERS returned from their Whitsun tour of Gibraltar with a win and a draw to their credit—including revenge for the Westminster Hospital Cup defeat handed them by Combined Services at Loakes Park recently.

That came via a 3-0 win at Victoria Stadium on Whit Sunday, but 24 hours earlier, the Wanderers kicked off their programme with a 2-2 draw against the Gibraltar F.A., at the same venue.

They began with a setback. For while they were adapting to the "hortex" porous pitch, and the clouds of dust—plus the disadvantage of an old-type leather ball—so the home side scored an early goal.

In the 12th minute a clever move had Sirra pushing the ball through to Cortes for a shot, which was blocked by guest player Gerry Olsen. The ball however rebounded and Cortes followed up to net from the scramble that ensued.

Other than Olsen, the Wealdstone (formerly Chesham) centre-half, Julian Lailey (Cheltenham and former Wycombe) and Skelmersdale's Peter Hardcastle guested for Wanderers to boost the party's playing ength. Fifteen players altogether went.

The Combination of Sirra and Cortes often proved a danger to the visitors' defence, and within minutes good midfield work by Jurado gave Cortes another chance, which found the side netting.

But both Geoff Anthony and John Hutchinson worked hard and claimed near misses. Larry Pritchard too was tireless in his endeavour.

Yet Gibraltar stretched Wycombe's defence again in the 23rd minute to make it 2-0 from a corner, which Wycombe thought should have been a goal-kick. From the setpiece Sirra soared above Paul Fuschillo to head home a fine goal.

Keeping the ball low, Wanderers experienced midfield men Julian Lailey and Ted Powell were competent and dominating, but the forwards failed to glean any advantage from the situation.

The obvious football talent was appreciated by the local population and enthusiastic servicemen on the rock, however. Gibraltar retreated under fire in the second half, during which Johnson stood out in their back-row.

Pritchard headed a fine goal on the run following a high centre in the 60th minute, and Hutchinson equalised seven minutes later with a cannon-like shot which punished a defensive mix-up.

John Delaney and Hardcastle substituted for Keith Searle and Barry Baker in an attempt to force a result. But Gibraltar's Figuiras drove the ball inches outside an upright as the home side came forward for a final effort.

GIBRALTAR: Wink; Moreno, Fedirico, Johnson, Martinez, Figuiras, Sirra, Aquilema, Asquez, Cortes, Jurado.

WYCOMBE: O'Brien; Fuschillo, MacLean, Powell, Olsen, Lailey, Anthony, Baker (sub.: Hardcastle), Searle (sub.: Delaney), Pritchard, Hutchinson.

Referee: Sgt. N. Rugg.

Wanderers 'rock' the Services

AFTER fighting back from 2-0 to draw 2-2 with the Gibraltar F.A., Wycombe Wanderers set about a neat piece of revenge work by defeating Combined Services 3-0 at Victoria Stadium on the Sunday of their Whitsun tour of the 'Rock'.

Although beaten by the same Services side at Loakes Park recently in the Westminster Hospital Cup, Wanderers moved well and were far more dangerous in front of goal than the previous evening—obviously having adapted themselves to the "hortex" porous pitch.

The ground had also been watered, which meant no repetition of the previous dust clouds. And with Wycombe dominant in midfield through Julian Lailey, Peter Hardcastle and Ted Powell—skillfully pushing the ball in short passes to Geoff Anthony and Larry Pritchard—the Services' defence endured a worrying time.

INEVITABLE

A goal was inevitable and indeed one came after 35 minutes when Anthony backheaded a corner onto the head of John Delaney for the ball to be dispatched into the net.

Within minutes, Pritchard hit an upright and Lailey also went close as the Services floundered. Delaney, with Gerry Olsen, Iain MacLean and Charlie Gale in the back four, kept Services' attacks at bay, playing with confidence.

Chances were missed as Wycombe continued to press before the interval, when Paul Fuschillo replaced Hardcastle and Gale added strength to the attack, the burly Wanderer shooting his side further ahead in the opening minutes of the second half. The Services' keeper could only fingertip Gale's hard drive into the net.

Lailey added number three later in the half after John Hutchinson (brought on as substitute for Keith Seale) passed across the goalmouth.

And had Wycombe used a fraction of their chances, the final result could have become a landslide.

WYCOMBE: O'Brien; Gale, MacLean, Powell, Delaney, Olsen, Hardcastle, Anthony, Searle, Pritchard, Lailey. Subs. Fuschillo, Hutchinson.